

are caused by increased leucocytic elastase or plasmin activity or can be treated by the inhibition of normal leucocytic elastase or plasmin activity, said method comprising administering boswellic acid, a physiologically acceptable salt, a derivative, a salt of the derivative, a plant extract containing boswellic acid, or combinations thereof, in an amount effective for treating the destruction of functional tissue, to combat said diseases to a mammalian organism in need of such combating.

18. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 28, wherein said boswellic acid is administered intraperitoneally, orally, buccally, rectally, intramuscularly, topically, subcutaneously, intraarticularly, intravenously or inhalationally.

19. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 28, wherein said boswellic acid is administered in the form of tablets, dragees, capsules, solutions, emulsions, ointments, creams, inhalants, aerosols or suppositories.

20. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 28, wherein said mammalian organism is an animal.

21. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 28, wherein said mammalian organism is a human.

22. ^{TWICE} (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 28, wherein a pharmaceutical compound is also present.

28. (Amended) A method for treating the destruction of functional tissue associated with diseases selected from the group consisting of pulmonary emphysema, acute respiratory distress syndrome, shock lung, cystic fibrosis (mucoviscidosis), chronic bronchitis, glomerulonephritis and rheumatoid arthritis, which are caused by increased leucocytic elastase or plasmin activity or can be treated by the inhibition of normal leucocytic elastase or plasmin activity, said method comprising administering boswellic acid, a physiologically acceptable salt, a derivative, a salt of the derivative, a plant extract containing boswellic acid, or combinations thereof, in an amount effective for treating the destruction of functional tissue, to a mammalian organism in need of such prevention.

29. (Amended) A method for treating the destruction of functional tissue associated with tumors and neoplasms or tumor metastases which are caused by increased plasmin activity or can be treated by the inhibition of normal leucocytic elastase or plasmin activity, said method comprising administering boswellic acid, a physiologically acceptable salt, a derivative, a salt of the derivative, a plant extract containing boswellic acid, or combinations thereof, in an amount effective for treating the destruction of functional tissue, to a mammalian organism in need of such prevention.